

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSF-01 NAS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6118

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3292

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCLR, TPHY, NO, SV
SUBJECT: USE OF C-130 TRANSPORT PLANE FOR SVALBARD SCIENTIFIC
PROJECT

REF: (A) OSLO 3217, (B) STATE 169494

1. POLAR AFFAIRS ADVISOR BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN IN JULY 7
DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF EXPRESSED FURHTER MISGIVINGS ABOUT
PROPOSED LANDING OF C-130 TRANSPORT AT SVALBARD. HE POINTED
OUT THAT THE SOVIETS, APART FROM THEIR MONTHLY SCHEDULED
AEROFLOT FLIGHT, HAVE NOT, TO DATE, BROUGHT A PLANE OF
THIS SIZE INTO SVALBARD. HE IS CONCERNED THAT THE USSR
WOULD USE THE PRECEDENT TO START BRINGING IN LARGER UN-
SCHEDULED PLANES OF THEIR OWN.

2. BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN DID NOT COMMENT SPECIFICALLY ON THE
NAVY CREW, BUT CLEARLY IS CONCERNED, DESPITE THE ASSURANCES
THAT CREW MEMBERS WOULD BE IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES.

3. ACCORDING TO BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN, THE EQUIPMENT CAN
BE TRANSPORTED IN A TIMELY FASHION FROM TROMSOE TO
SVALBARD. HE WAYS THAT SHIPS LEAVE TROMSOE FOR THE
NORTH ON A WEEKLY BASIS DURING THE SUMMER SEASON. USE
OF THE SHIP, WHICH CALLS AT NYE AALESUND, THE SITE OF
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THE EXPERIMENT, WOULD ALSO PRECLUDE THE NEED TO SHIP
THE MATERIAL BE SEA FROM LONGYEARBYEN TO NYE AALESUND.

4. THE MFA HAS NOT AS YET FORMALLY ADDRESSED THIS
MATTER. IT IS HIGHLY LIKELY THAT, IF THEY DO NOT
HEAR FROM US UNOFFICIALLY TO THE EFFECT THAT THE TROMSOE
ROUTE WILL BE USED, THEY WILL OFFICIALLY REQUEST US

TO AVOID THE C-130 FLIGHT TO SVALBARD.

5. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF THE NORWEGIAN FEELING ABOUT
THE UNDESIRABILITY OF THE PRECEDENT, AND OF THE REALATIVELY
SLIGHT GAINS TO BE MADE BY LANDING THE C-130 AT
LONGYARBYEN, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS USE OF THE TROMSOE-
SVALBARD ARRANGEMENT (PARA 2, REF B).
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Message Attributes

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